

Applic. No. : 09/450,299

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). An assembly for cleaning exhaust gas, comprising:

a metallic catalyst carrier body without a tubular jacket for installation in an exhaust pipe casing, said catalyst carrier body having a longitudinal axis, an interior with a plurality of flow paths and an outer surface; and

~~at least one~~ a substantially plate-shaped retaining element to be fastened in said exhaust pipe casing, said retaining element extending in a plane, said plane including an angle with said longitudinal axis of said catalyst carrier body, said retaining element having an opening formed therein for receiving said catalyst carrier body and a protrusion formed at said opening ~~for receiving and~~ securing said catalyst carrier body in said opening, said protrusion surrounding only a part of said outer surface of said catalyst carrier body, said retaining element fastened directly on said catalyst carrier body, and said retaining element at least one of holding said catalyst carrier body together in a dimensionally stable state and substantially supporting said catalyst carrier body on its own.

Claim 2 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catalyst carrier body has first and second parts,

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the exhaust pipe casing has an inflow chamber for exhaust gas to be treated and an outflow chamber for treated exhaust gas, and said retaining element is to be connected to said exhaust pipe casing for causing said first part of said catalyst carrier body to face said inflow chamber and said second part of said catalyst carrier body to face said outflow chamber, said chambers being substantially sealingly separated from one another permitting the exhaust gas to flow through said catalyst carrier body from said inflow chamber into said outflow chamber.

Claim 3 (previously amended). The assembly according to claim 2, wherein said exhaust pipe casing is disposed within a muffler casing.

Claim 4 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said retaining element is a substantially planar plate having two sides, and said catalyst carrier body protrudes substantially to the same extent from both of said sides of said plate.

Claim 5 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catalyst carrier body has a round cross section, and said opening in said retaining element has an elliptical structure for obliquely configuring said catalyst carrier body in said opening.

Claim 6 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said retaining element has a rim at said opening and said protrusion is a collar disposed at least in subregions at said rim for fastening said catalyst carrier body.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The assembly according to claim 5, wherein said elliptical opening has two long sides and two short sides, and said protrusion includes a flanged subregion at each of said short sides of said elliptical opening.

Claim 8 (original). The assembly according to claim 7, wherein said flanged subregions are flanged toward different sides of said retaining element at an obtuse angle and bear against said obliquely inserted catalyst carrier body.

Claim 9 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catalyst carrier body is a honeycomb structure for receiving an axial flow.

Claim 10 (previously amended). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catalyst carrier body is constructed substantially of at least partially structured layers of sheet metal being at least one of wound, laminated and intertwined with one another to form channels for said plurality of flow paths.

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Claim 11 (previously amended). The assembly according to claim 10, wherein said layers of sheet metal are coated with catalytically active material.

Claim 12 (withdrawn). A method for producing an assembly for cleaning exhaust gas, which comprises:

producing a catalyst carrier body with a longitudinal axis, an interior having a plurality of flow paths and an outer surface, but without a tubular jacket, in a production device, for installation of the catalyst carrier body into an exhaust pipe casing;

producing at least one approximately plate-shaped retaining element having an opening formed therein and a protrusion in the vicinity of the opening;

passing the completed catalyst carrier body directly from the production device into the opening with the protrusion surrounding only part of the outer surface of the catalyst carrier body; and

fastening the protrusion directly on the outer surface of the catalyst carrier body with the retaining element at least one of holding the catalyst carrier body together in a dimensionally stable state and substantially supporting the catalyst carrier body on its own.

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Claim 13 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 12, which comprises producing the protrusion on the retaining element in the form of a flanging.

Claim 14 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 12, which comprises producing the protrusion on the retaining element in the form of a collar.

Claim 15 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 12, which comprises welding the protrusion on the catalyst carrier body.

Claim 16 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 12, which comprises form-lockingly connecting the protrusion on the catalyst carrier body.

Claim 17 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 12, which comprises at least one of laminating, winding and twisting the catalyst carrier body in the production device from at least partially structured layers of sheet metal coated with at least one of ceramic material and catalytically active material.

Claim 18 (withdrawn). A muffler for an exhaust system of a small engine, comprising:

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a metallic catalyst carrier body with a jacket surface but without a tubular jacket;

a muffler casing having an inflow chamber and an outflow chamber; and

a dividing wall mutually separating said inflow and outflow chambers, said dividing wall constructed as an approximately plate-shaped retaining element for said catalyst carrier body, said dividing wall having an opening formed therein obliquely receiving said catalyst carrier body, said dividing wall having a protrusion at said opening surrounding only part of said jacket surface of said catalyst carrier body, and said protrusion fastened directly on said catalyst carrier body.

Claim 19 (withdrawn). The muffler according to claim 18, wherein said protrusion is a flanging.

Claim 20 (withdrawn). The muffler according to claim 18, wherein said protrusion is a collar.

Claim 21 (withdrawn). The muffler according to claim 18, wherein said opening in said dividing wall is elliptical and has two narrow sides, said protrusion is a flanged rim in the vicinity of said narrow sides, and said flanged rim is connected directly to said catalyst carrier body by a joining technique.

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Claim 22 (withdrawn). The muffler according to claim 21, wherein said joining technique is welding.

Claim 23 (withdrawn). The muffler according to claim 18, wherein said catalyst carrier body is installed in said muffler casing for repeatedly deflecting exhaust gas.

Claim 24 (withdrawn). The muffler according to claim 18, wherein said catalyst carrier body has two sides and is supported at least at one of said sides on said muffler casing.